

Todd F. Nevell, Esq., SBN: #170054  
**SCOLINOS, SHELDON & NEVELL**  
301 North Lake Avenue, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Pasadena, California 91101  
Telephone: (626) 793-3900  
Facsimile: (626) 568-0930

Attorneys for Plaintiff, DONALD WOOD

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, WESTERN DIVISION**

DONALD WOOD,

Plaintiff,

v.

AMERICAN AIRLINES, INC., and DOES  
1 through 100, Inclusive,

Defendants.

CASE NO.:

**COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES FOR:**

**1. NEGLIGENCE**  
**2. STRICT LIABILITY**

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff, DONALD WOOD, alleges as follows:

**NEGLIGENCE**

**[By Plaintiff, DONALD WOOD, against Defendants,  
AMERICAN AIRLINES, INC.,  
and DOES 1 through 100, Inclusive.]**

1. Plaintiff, DONALD WOOD, is an individual residing in the County of Los Angeles, State of California.

2. At all relevant times mentioned herein defendants, AMERICAN AIRLINES, INC., and DOES 1 through 100, and each of them, were, and are now, corporations or other business entities formed in the State of Delaware, operating and existing under the laws of the State of California and doing business in the County of Los Angeles.

3. The true names or capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate, or otherwise,

1 of defendants DOES 1 through 100, Inclusive, are unknown to Plaintiff, who therefore sues said  
2 defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff is informed and believes and therefore alleges that  
3 each of the defendants designated herein as a DOE is legally responsible in some manner for the  
4 events and happenings herein referred to, and legally caused injury and damages proximately  
5 thereby to plaintiff as herein alleged. Plaintiff will ask leave of this court to allege their true  
6 names and capacities when the same have been ascertained.

7 4. At all relevant times, defendants, and each of them, were the agents and employees  
8 of each of the remaining defendants, and were at all times acting within the purpose and scope of  
9 said agency and employment, and each defendant has ratified and approved the acts of his or her  
10 agent.

11 5. This matter concerns injuries suffered by Plaintiff due to acts by Defendant's  
12 employees during a flight from Orange County, California to Dallas, Texas.

13 6. This court has jurisdiction pursuant to *28 U.S.C. § 1331* in that the claims arise  
14 under a treaty of the United States, specifically, the Montreal Convention of 1999, which was  
15 ratified on July 31, 2003.

16 7. This court also has jurisdiction pursuant to *28 U.S.C. 1332*, in that the damages  
17 exceed \$75,000 and the parties are citizens of different states.

18 8. Venue in the Central District of California is appropriate pursuant to *28 U.S.C. §*  
19 *1391* in that the Defendant is actually engaged in business in the Central District of California, and  
20 pursuant to Art. 33 of the Montreal Convention, Plaintiff's principle and permanent residence is  
21 within the Central District and Defendants business operates within the Central District.

22 9. On or about May 19, 2014, Plaintiff Donald Wood, boarded American Airlines  
23 flight No. 1176 at John Wayne Airport in Santa Ana bound for Dallas Forth Worth, en route to  
24 Florida. After boarding and before take-off, Plaintiff was standing in his aisle seat (9D) when a  
25 flight attendant, Charlotte (last name unknown), an employee of Defendant, slammed the door to  
26 the overhead luggage bin onto Plaintiff's head, causing Plaintiff to suffer severe and permanent  
27 injuries.

28 10. Defendants, and each of them, a common carrier, owed a duty of reasonable care to

1 plaintiff and breached their duty of care and were negligent, careless and failed to exercise ordinary  
2 care in that they carelessly, recklessly and negligently slammed the overhead luggage bin onto  
3 Plaintiff's head.

4 11. As a proximate result of the negligence and carelessness of said Defendants, and each  
5 of them, Plaintiff was severely injured in his strength and activity, sustaining injury to his body and  
6 shock and injury to his nervous system and person, all of which injuries have caused and continue to  
7 cause Plaintiff great mental, physical and emotional pain and suffering.

8 12. As a further proximate result of the negligence and carelessness of the defendants, and  
9 each of them, Plaintiff has incurred and will continue to incur hospital, surgical, medical and related  
10 healthcare expenses. The full amount of such expenses is not known to plaintiff at this time and  
11 Plaintiff will move to amend this Complaint to state such amount when same becomes known to him,  
12 or on proof thereof.

13 13. As a further proximate result of the negligence and carelessness of the defendants,  
14 and each of them, Plaintiff has incurred and will continue to incur loss of earnings, both past and  
15 future.

16 **STRICT LIABILITY**

17 **[By Plaintiff, DONALD WOOD, against Defendants,**  
18 **AMERICAN AIRLINES, INC.,**  
**and DOES 1 through 100, Inclusive.]**

19 14. Plaintiff refers to paragraphs 1-13 above of the first count, and repleads and  
20 reimposes said allegations as if set forth herein.

21 15. The Montreal Convention imposes strict liability on air carriers. Article 17  
22 provides for carrier liability in the event of bodily injury to a passenger while on board, embarking  
23 or disembarking from the aircraft.

24 16. As a proximate result of the negligence and carelessness of said Defendants, and each  
25 of them, Plaintiff was severely injured in his strength and activity, sustaining injury to his body and  
26 shock and injury to his nervous system and person, all of which injuries have caused and continue to  
27 cause Plaintiff great mental, physical and emotional pain and suffering.

28 17. As a further proximate result of the negligence and carelessness of the defendants, and

1 each of them, Plaintiff has incurred and will continue to incur hospital, surgical, medical and related  
2 healthcare expenses. The full amount of such expenses is not known to plaintiff at this time and  
3 Plaintiff will move to amend this Complaint to state such amount when same becomes known to him,  
4 or on proof thereof.

5 18. As a further proximate result of the negligence and carelessness of the defendants,  
6 and each of them, Plaintiff has incurred and will continue to incur loss of earnings, both past and  
7 future.

8 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

9 Plaintiff, DONALD WOOD, hereby demands trial by jury in this action.

10 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

11 **WHEREFORE**, plaintiff pray for judgment against defendants, and each of them, as follows:

- 12 1. For general damages of \$1,000,000.00, or such sum as may be proven  
13 at trial, which sum is in excess of the jurisdictional minimum of this  
14 court;
- 15 2. For medical and related expenses in the sum of \$100,000.00, or such  
16 other sum as may be proven at time of trial, plus prejudgment interest  
17 at the highest rate allowed by law;
- 18 3. For loss of earnings of \$500,000.00 or such other sum as may be  
19 proven at trial, and loss of earning capacity according to proof, plus  
20 prejudgment interest at the highest rate allowed by law;
- 21 4. For costs of suit herein incurred;
- 22 5. For leave to amend this Complaint to conform to discovery and proof;
- 23 6. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

24  
25 DATED: April 29, 2016

**SCOLINOS, SHELDON & NEVELL**

26  
27 By:   
28 TODD F. NEVELL  
Attorneys for Plaintiff, DONALD WOOD.